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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 5329
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SUBJECT: SEOUL - MEDIA REACTION

East Asia and Pacific: Burma, trial of Aung San Suu Kyi

"INTERNATIONAL SANCTIONS SHOULD STRENGTHEN AGAINST MYANMAR, THE
WORLD'S WORST HUMAN RIGHTS OFFENDER"

Right-of-center JoongAng Ilbo editorialized (08/13): "The ruling
military junta's intentions are obvious: It intends to restrain Ms.
Suu Kyi from influencing the planned general elections next year.
... The fact that the military junta has gone this far despite
international criticism demonstrates the ineffectiveness of
international responses. ... It is also problematic that the
international community has failed to speak with one voice. The UN
Security Council, faced with opposition from China and Russia, has
never passed a resolution against the country. Myanmar, along with
North Korea, is ranked among the world's worst human rights
violators. It is a well-known fact that some 2,000 political
prisoners remain incarcerated in the country. The international
community should be united at this time and enhance sanctions
against Myanmar."

STEPHENS